

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SEP 13 1999 881

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DENISE PENNELL
CLERK OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone 661-868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

September 7, 1999

Lester Snow
Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

The Kern County Board of Supervisors would like to express its deep concerns with the inadequacy of the Programmatic Environmental Statement (EIS) issued by the CALFED Bay-Delta Program in addressing critical supply and quality issues confronting users of Delta water, both now and in the future.

The process begun by environmental, urban, and agricultural interests in partnership with State and federal agencies was aimed at finding balanced solutions to these problems. However, the EIS fails to identify detailed strategy either for reversing 20 years of neglect to California's water storage and delivery system or for making the improvements to Delta water quality demanded by increasingly tougher new drinking water standards.

California cannot afford to continue putting off decisions to invest the necessary resources in water supply and water quality that will enable our economy and our population to continue prospering. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program must guarantee clear and quantifiable benefits to water users in order to justify the substantial investments that will be required. We ask your support for the attached resolution, which calls for an aggressive, detailed plan to provide a continued supply of clean, safe water for current and future generations of Californians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon McQuiston", is written over a horizontal line.

Jon McQuiston, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

JM:ADK\pg:calfedco.ver

Attachment

cc: Kern County Water Agency
Planning
Kern County Farm Bureau
Richard Ritts

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF KERN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 99-255

Reference No. _____

CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

I, **DENISE PENNELL**, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Kern, State of California, hereby certify that the following resolution, on motion of Supervisor PEREZ, seconded by Supervisor PATRICK, was duly and regularly adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Kern at an official meeting thereof on the 7TH day of SEPTEMBER, 1999, by the following vote and that a copy of the resolution has been delivered to the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

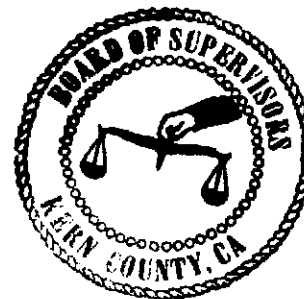
AYES: MC QUISTON, PEREZ, PATRICK, PETERSON, PARRA

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

DENISE PENNELL
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Kern, State of California

Mary Scheuing
Deputy Clerk



RESOLUTION

Section 1. WHEREAS:

- (a) The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta represents a valuable water resource upon which several million Californians directly depend for both drinking water and agricultural production, and millions more people throughout California and the nation benefit economically from supplies of affordable food produced using water from the Delta; and
- (b) Over the past decade, regulatory decisions have removed more than 1 million acre-feet of Delta water supply from use by California's cities and farms; and
- (c) California's growing population, together with tougher drinking water quality standards, will continue to place severe pressure on water supplies and on the State's already inadequate water storage and delivery system; and

- (d) The CALFED Bay-Delta Program has been developed to seek solutions to water storage and water quality issues that balance agricultural and urban needs with environmental and ecological concerns; and
- (e) The Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) issued by the CALFED Bay-Delta Program fails to identify a detailed strategy for recovering lost water supply, expanding water supply, or improving water quality in the Delta; and
- (f) State Water Project users, who have never received the full 4.1 million acre-foot allotment promised under the Project despite paying more than \$6 billion toward its cost, are being asked to pay several billion dollars more in user fees and charges to help finance a CALFED program without any guarantees of the water supply or water quality benefits to be derived from the program; and
- (g) Without clearly defined and quantifiable benefits, CALFED will be unable to impose appropriate water user fees to implement the program;

Section 2. NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Kern, State of California, as follows:

1. CALFED must set and aggressively pursue water supply goals of at least a net increase of 200,000 to 400,000 acre-feet during the first seven years of this program.
2. CALFED must expedite planning and implementation of the South Delta Improvements, which hold the greatest immediate potential for increasing water supplies, and must balance the benefits equitably among urban, farm, and environmental uses.
3. CALFED must develop regulatory and operational guarantees of actual benefits to water users.
4. CALFED must develop a comprehensive timetable for meeting required improvements in drinking water quality and set interim performance benchmarks.
5. CALFED must clearly set out the conditions that will trigger when a full assessment of an isolated conveyance facility is done, and how to decide whether to proceed with such a project.
6. A copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor and to all appropriate State and federal officials.

COPIES FURNISHED:
Gray Davis
Lester Snow
Co. Counsel, CAO
JMS 9.7.99